

I am writing to urge to you to stop phone companies from imposing misleading charges on my monthly phone bill so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations, including CU. This petition, CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. Please move on this, and do so quickly!! Most consumers feel like I do -- irritated and fed-up with a long list of new charges and frustrated and confused when trying to compare prices when shopping for telecommunications service. Phone and cellphone bills should be truthful, easy to read, and easy to understand. Instead, the long distance and wireless bills are filled with surcharges with misleading names that imply the line items are mandated by law, when they are not. All of these added fees and surcharges simply pad the pockets of the service providers, and the FCC is letting them get away with it. Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the bill they send me every month. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices. If grocery stores were allowed to do this, a 56 cent can of beans would end up costing at least 75 cents, but they'd still be advertising them as 56 cent cans. A movie ticket advertised at \$6.50 would cost \$8.75 at the ticket window. It's ridiculous!! The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate carrier practices related to line item charges on bills for wireline and wireless phone service; to declare certain practices in violation on the Commission's "Truth in Billing" Order and to prohibit carriers from imposing separate monthly !

fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority, and the advertised price, whatever it is, must include all such costs, fees, and charges, up front. A "\$39.95 per-month service", should cost you \$39.95 per-month, NOT \$57.63 or whatever it is by the time they add all those fees and surcharges!!!